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famine conditions. Here is a case where poverty has resulted in suicide. Undoubtedly our country is full of such poor people."

10-10 a.m. SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—"Have any other deaths due to starvation have been brought to the notice of the Government; and may I know the concrete steps the Government are going to take to remedy the situation?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—"Not only from Malabar but from all over the country opposition papers have collected the maximum number of starvation deaths and I have been able to enquire into them and I have found out that they are all cases of accident or otherwise and not the symptom of a general condition of things. As regards the district of Malabar, the economic condition of Malabar is well known and the economic condition of Salem is well known and so also of the district of North Arcot; each district has its own economic condition and as regards all these, the Government as my hon. Colleague suggested, with the help of the Five-Year Plan, are doing their best to improve the economic condition of the country."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—"Whatever be the reason for the death in this case, it has been accepted that it is due to poverty. Are the Government aware, Sir, that of late the poverty of the people in the country is increasing and hence the number of deaths due to poverty are also increasing and such things as are brought to the notice of the Government in this regard have a basis of poverty behind them and therefore, Sir, will the Government at least now take into consideration the existence of famine conditions, the rising of prices, and unemployment which are plunging the country into more and more of poverty and will they in the action that they take give due consideration to this feature in our economic condition?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—"Poverty is one of the most important weapons in the armoury of certain parties (Sri T. Nagi Reddy: Then let it be removed) and I think whenever the rains come and distress is likely to be reduced that party is extremely dissatisfied and fidgety and as a result of the rains, I think, we will not hear next year of this and we shall have time to consider the general question."

Opening of a Government Hospital at Turaiyur.

* 593 *Q.*—SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government received any representation from the public of Turaiyur regarding the construction and opening of a Government Hospital there; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) The answer is in the negative.

" (b) Does not arise."

Producers-cum-Consumers Co-operative Societies in Malabar.

* 594 Q.—SRI P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV : Will the Hon. the Minister for Co-operation be pleased to state—

(a) the number of producers-*cum*-consumers co-operative societies in Malabar district which had worked at a loss in the co-operative year ending 30th June 1952; and

(b) the total amount of interest collected or due from them from 1st July 1952 to 31st December 1952 for the stocks supplied to them under the State Trading Scheme?

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" (a) Seventy producers-*cum*-consumers co-operative societies in Malabar district worked at a loss during the co-operative year ended 30th June 1952; and

(b) Out of the 70 societies referred to in clause (a) above, eight societies were not given any foodgrains on credit under the State Trading Scheme during the peroid from 1st July 1952 to 31st December 1952, as their financial position was weak. The total amount of interest due from 23 societies on the stocks supplied to them during the period worked out to Rs. 1,11,396–1–0. In respect of the remaining 39 societies, the interest due from them till 30th September 1952 is Rs. 1,44,817–1–4 and the interest due for the quarter ending 31st December 1952 is being worked out. The total collection of interest in respect of these societies for the period ending 31st December 1952 is Rs. 73,137–2–4."

SRI P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have called for a report from the producers-*cum*-consumers co-operative societies concerned about the reason for the loss? "

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" I do not think we have called for it, Sir."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Out of a number of 107 societies, all of them were running at a profit before the year mentioned; but now 70 of them, a huge majority have suffered losses and the Hon. the Minister even now says that he has not called for any report as yet. May I know, Sir, why he did not do so and whether he will institute immediate enquiries regarding the cause of these losses? Will he take steps also to remedy the causes? "

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" I will certainly give consideration to the suggestion made by the hon. Member."